

Volunteers in Corrections Program

The Missouri Department of Corrections utilizes the services of volunteers in a variety of meaningful ways to augment institutional and community services for offenders. Volunteers teach substance abuse and coping skills classes and provide GED and literacy tutoring.

One program made possible by volunteers is a partnership among the Department, citizens and local courts. Community members serve on Reparation Boards that conduct face-to-face meetings with offenders, under the supervision of paid staff. Reparation Boards foster constructive relationships for offenders by holding them accountable to people in their own communities. These relationships help break the cycle of criminal behavior.

Volunteers are required to complete an extensive training regimen before they are assigned to a facility. Volunteer training and assignments are coordinated by the Volunteer Services Supervisor.

Programs and services staffed by VICs include:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Foster Grandparents
 - Parenting Classes
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Alternatives to Violence
- Money Management
 - Coping Skills
 - Job Skills
 - Tutors
- Culinary Arts
- Anger Control
- Spiritual Services
 - Visitor
 - Mentors
- Citizen Advisory Boards
 - Reparation Boards
 - Long Distance Dads

REPARATION BOARD VOLUNTEERS
MEET WITH AN OFFENDER.



Each year *more than* one thousand volunteers provide *many* thousands of hours of service to the Department of Corrections.

“Our purpose is to provide offenders with the tools to stay out of prison upon their release.

The most rewarding part of the job is to know that being here makes a difference.

To watch an inmate take responsibility for his behavior and realize he has worth gives me a feeling I could never get from a paycheck.”

—VOLUNTEER MARY RACHELSKI

Missouri Department of Corrections



***Volunteers are
leaders—
willing to share
their time and
talents to make
a difference
in the lives
of others.***

**DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES
573/751-2389
www.doc.missouri.gov**

Who volunteers?

Volunteers in Corrections Program (VIC) participants are people who care about people, family life and community. They are people who are willing to use their experience, knowledge and understanding to effect positive change and provide a safety net of support for offenders.

Volunteers must be 18 years old (21 years or older to have offender contact). They can have no pending criminal charges or be on probation or parole. They must pass a screening and interview process.

What do volunteers do?

VICs contribute time and talent to assist the Department of Corrections in delivering services and programs that focus on preparing offenders to become productive citizens. Volunteers provide excellent examples of productive lives.

Where do they work?

VICs serve in correctional facilities in the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) and Division of Probation and Parole (P&P) offices throughout the state. In all, the Department has 22 facilities and 49 P&P offices.



VOLUNTEER
MARY
RACHELSKI
TEACHES AT
MECC

What is the goal?

We understand our mission to be public safety—not just while offenders are under our supervision, but when they return to the community as well. The greatest and longest lasting public safety can only be achieved by ending the criminal behavior of as many offenders under our supervision as possible and assisting them in the transformation to productive, sober, law-abiding citizens. It is not a job we can do alone. It requires the partnership of offenders, staff, offender families and friends, and communities.

VICs provide a catalyst:

- To involve the community in the criminal justice process
- To promote community understanding regarding the correctional experience
- To increase services to offenders and clients
- To encourage offenders and clients to develop responsible behavior.

How do I become a Volunteer in Corrections?

Applying is simple. Fill out the brief form at right, detach it and return to the address given. We will forward an application.

After your application has been reviewed, a personal interview is scheduled. If we have an existing volunteer position that fits your special skills, you will be scheduled for an eight-hour orientation. Following orientation you will be tested for tuberculosis, assigned to a Supervisor, and be given an identification card.

I am interested in becoming a VIC...

Complete and return to:

Missouri Department of Corrections

I would like to volunteer in:

- ☐ A Division of Adult Institutions facility
☐ A Probation & Parole office
☐ Whatever position becomes available

I can work:

- ☐ Weekdays ☐ Both
- ☐ Weekends

I would be available:

- ☐
- Days
- ☐
- Evenings
- ☐
- Both

The program or service I am interested in providing is:

I would like to have someone:

- ☐ Call me to discuss the VIC program
- ☐ Send a VIC application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Area Code) _____